Issue Classification

Application/Control No. 09469561	**Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination** PAGEL, MARTIN
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ORIGINAL		INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION	
CLASS	**SUBCLASS**	**CLAIMED**	**NON-CLAIMED**
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CROSS REFERENCE(S)

CLASS	SUBCLASS (ONE SUBCLASS PER BLOCK)

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant   ☐ CPA   ☐ T.D.   ☐ R.1.47

Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original
1	1	21	17	31	33	22	49								
2	2	15	18	32	34	37	50								
3	3	16	19		35	44	51								
4	4		20		36										
	5	17	21	33	37										
5	6	18	22	34	38										
6	7	23	23	35	39										
7	8	24	24	36	40										
8	9	25	25	43	41										
9	10	26	26	38	42										
10	11	27	27	39	43										
11	12		28	40	44										
12	13		29	41	45										
13	14	28	30	42	46										
	15	29	31	19	47										
14	16	30	32	20	48										

		Total Claims Allowed:	
/ROB WU/ Examiner.Art Unit 3628 (Assistant Examiner)	1/13/2009 (Date)	44	
/JOHN W HAYES/ Supervisory Patent Examiner.Art Unit 3628 (Primary Examiner)	01/14/2010 (Date)	O.G. Print Claim(s) 1	O.G. Print Figure 1

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[0072] Returning with reference to the exemplary embodiment depicted in FIG. 2, once the system has built and assigned a unique CCID to the particular mail piece, the system then encodes the CCID and prints 28 a mail piece tracking graphic symbology, that can be applied to the particular mail piece and that can then be scanned by the U.S. postal service. The general way in which data is encoded for printing as a graphic symbology is well known in the art. The particular requirements for encoding and printing a U.S. Postal CONFIRM® identifier is prescribed in U.S. Postal Service *Publication* 197, previously incorporated by reference herein for all purposes.

[0073] After encoding and printing 28 the mail piece tracking graphic symbology, the system returns 24 to its other processing. ·

[0074] FIGS. 3A through 3B are a high level logic flow diagram depicting an exemplary process for building (see element 25 in FIG. 2) a unique mail piece identifier in an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. In order for the composite CONFIRM® ID to uniquely identify a particular mail piece, the exemplary Internet Postage computer system first searches 30 the CCID database 27 for a previously assigned composite CONFIRM® ID with the same POSTNET Code as the POSTNET Code of the particular mail piece for which unique identification has been requested by the customer. That is, the exemplary Internet Postage computer system uses as a lookup key the POSTNET Code of the particular mail piece for which tracking has been requested by the customer.

[0075] In one alternative embodiment, instead of using only the POSTNET Code as the lookup key, a combination of POSTNET Code and mail class/service type code is used as a lookup key. As a further alternative, a combination of POSTNET Code and subscriber ID could be used as a lookup key.

[0076] Continuing with FIGS. 3A through 3B, the exemplary Internet Postage computer system tests (test step 31, FIG. 3A) whether or not the mail piece POSTNET was found. If the POSTNET Code (or in the alternative embodiment, the combination of the POSTNET Code and mail class/service type code) does not exist 32 in the CCID database 27, then the exemplary Internet Postage computer system uses (in step 33) the first Mailing ID ("000001") and the first subscriber ID ("00001") to build 34 the unique composite CONFIRM® ID (CCID). The system then returns 35 to its other processing.

[0077] In the case in which the POSTNET Code (or in the alternative embodiment, the combination of the POSTNET Code and mail class/service type code) does not exist in the CCID database, in order to build the unique CCID, the exemplary Internet Postage computer system sets a first field (referred to herein as the "CCID type of CONFIRM® service") to a value designating that the CONFIRM® service type is "Destination" CONFIRM®. In the exemplary embodiment, the CCID type of CONFIRM® service field is a 2-digit field.

[0078] In the case in which the POSTNET Code (or in the alternative embodiment, the combination of the POSTNET Code and mail class/service type code) does not exist in the CCID database, in order to further build the unique CCID, the exemplary Internet Postage computer system sets a

second field (referred to herein as the "CCID subscriber ID") in the CCID to a first subscriber ID, e.g., "00001". In the exemplary embodiment, the CCID subscriber ID is a 5-digit field.

[0079] The exemplary Internet Postage computer system sets a third field (referred to herein as the "CCID mailing ID") in the CCID to a first mailing ID, e.g., "000001". In the exemplary embodiment, the CCID mailing ID is a 6-digit field. In an alternative embodiment, the CCID mailing ID could be a 4-digit field or a field with some other "n" number of digits.

[0080] The exemplary Internet Postage computer system sets a fourth field (referred to herein as the "CCID POST-NET") in the CCID to the POSTNET Code of the particular mail piece for which the customer has requested tracking. In the exemplary embodiment system, the customer mailer will have requested and paid for an Internet-based postage-indicia-bearing label to be printed with which to mail the particular mail piece. In those instances in which the customer mailer has provided the delivery address or zip code for the particular mail piece in order for the system to prepare the Internet-based postage-indicia-bearing label for the mail piece, the system will use the Internet-based postage-indicia-bearing label delivery address information supplied by the customer mailer with which to populate the CCID POSTNET.

[0081] As previously explained, a POSTNET Code comprises a 5-digit ZIP code and, if the particular delivery address can be found in a postal address database, a 4-digit area code, and a 2-digit delivery address code. If the particular delivery address cannot be found in the postal address database, then, as long as the city, state and ZIP code of the delivery address are otherwise valid, the POSTNET Code comprises only the 5-digit ZIP code.

[0082] As previously explained, in the exemplary embodiment, the POSTNET Code for the exemplary POSTNET Code unique mail piece identifier is populated by the Internet Postage system with the appropriate 5-digit ZIP code, 4-digit area code, and 2-digit delivery address code fields obtained by the Internet Postage system in response to the customer's input of a delivery address 11.

[0083] As previously explained, it will be understood by someone with ordinary skill in the art that the composite CONFIRM® ID (CCID) need not necessarily include the entire POSTNET Code to uniquely identify a mail piece. It is possible to use less than the full POSTNET Code to construct a unique mail piece identifier. For example, 1, 2 or more digits of the POSTNET Code could be used to construct a unique CCID. The number of digits of the POSTNET Code that would be needed to construct a unique CCID mail piece identifier would depend on circumstances regarding a particular CONFIRM® Service subscriber and the number of its customers.

[0084] In the alternative exemplary embodiment in which the lookup key includes both the POSTNET Code and the mail class/service type code, the exemplary alternative Internet Postage computer system would also set a fifth field (referred to herein as the "CCID service type") in the CCID to the mail class/service type of the mail piece for which the customer has requested tracking.

[0085] Once the exemplary Internet Postage computer system (sometimes referred to herein as the "system") has